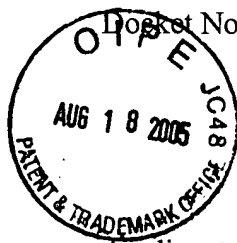


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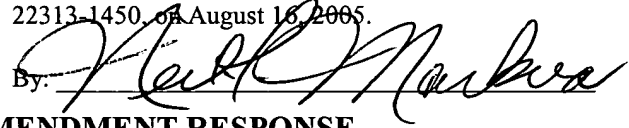
Docket No.: 432-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James D. Martin )  
Serial No.: 10/780,810 ) Art Unit 3644  
Filed: February 18, 2004 ) Examiner:  
For: SPRING-LOADED ANIMAL TETHER ) Bret C. Hayes  
ASSEMBLY )

The Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: The Commissioner of Patents, PO BOX 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on August 18, 2005.

By: 

SECOND AMENDMENT RESPONSE

This is in response to the July 14, 2005 office action in which claims 1-15 are allowed, and new prior art references of Flem (U.S. Patent 5,145,265) and Snow (U.S. Patent 1,849,963) are cited and a new rejection of claims 16-20 is made.

***Cancellation of Claim 19 and Amendment of Claim 16***

Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and amend claim 16 by incorporating the language of claim 19 as indicated below.

Claim 16 now states that the “bushing means includes at least one bushing member split generally lengthwise to cylindrically expand and resiliently grasp the cylindrical connector portion that is rotatably disposed within said receiver portion.”

Regarding the language of former claim 19, the examiner states that it “would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the split as taught by Flem in order to cylindrically expand and resiliently grasp the connector portion.”